



Holy Cross—St. Mark

Newsletter

August 2025



Facebook:

Holy Cross & St. Mark Lutheran
Churches



Website:

holycrossandstmark.org

In this Issue:

Devotional Thoughts—p. 1, 3
Synod News—p. 2
Dual Parish Update —p. 2
St. Mark Council Update—p. 2
Holy Cross Council Update—p. 2
Who Can I Pray For? —p. 3
Calendar —p. 4

Upcoming Events

Aug. 5, 12, 19: Summer Midweek Bible
Class (Revelation)
Aug. 11: SM Council Meeting - 6pm
Aug. 21: HC Council Meeting - 6:30pm
Aug. 27: 1st Catechism Class @ HC par-
sonage - 3:30pm

Devotional Thoughts

By Pastor Crass

“What do we do next?” This is a question that often rattles around in my mind. “Christmas and all the worship preparation that went into it is done. What next?” “The constant sprint of Holy Week is now past. What now?” I ask the same question this week too. “We just put all that time and effort and money into VBS. What’s next?”

In many ways, it’s a good question to be asking. The goal of our ministry is not to tread water. A church’s job is to “go and make disciples.” But it’s also to strengthen disciples. How do we do both of those things? Well, what we see at VBS every year is one of the unique times where we see both going on at the same time. We encourage the children and adults from our church to attend and grow. We are not making disciples of them. They are already Jesus’ followers. But we are making stronger disciples of them. And our VBS welcomes families every year who have no church home, not because they have some bitterness toward God, but because coming into a church for the first time can be intimidating. Whether these visitors come to know and love their Savior or not (and we know some of them do before they even come), we get to plant the seed of the gospel, the seed only the Holy Spirit can make grow.

But what do we do next? How do we parlay that momentum into something else? I think that’s the struggle every year. We only have so many ministry resources, so much budget to spend and so many volunteer hours until people begin to burn out. Because of course, our members have many other God-given responsibilities in life that are just as important to God (if not more) than their volunteer opportunities here. What do we do next?

(continued on page 3)

Pastor Crass Contact Info:
(309)798-0610 - text or call
pastorcrass@gmail.com

WELS News

More information on informal meetings with the LCMS and the ELS

Since 2012, leaders from the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, WELS, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been meeting informally once a year, with the latest meeting taking place in December 2024.

At that meeting, it was decided that it would be helpful to share more information about these gatherings with the members of each of the synods. I asked Prof. em. Thomas Nass, who has been attending these meetings since the beginning, to put an article together that summarizes these ongoing conversations. His article will be included in the August issue of Forward in Christ magazine.

Rev. Glenn Obenberger, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, will be observing the synod convention in New Ulm this July as guests. They will both briefly address the convention, bringing greetings from their respective synods.

We thank God for these opportunities to learn about each other through face-to-face interaction and to discuss topics of mutual interest. These discussions do not imply that doctrinal agreement and a restoration of fellowship is imminent. Yet we pray that God will continue to bless these conversations.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

62nd annual LWMS convention held in Tulsa

The 62nd annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Convention took place at the Arvest Center in Tulsa, Okla., June 26-29, under the theme "Sowing the Seeds of Faith."

About 650 women (and men) met at this annual event for mission support, spiritual renewal, inspiration, and fellowship.

In his sermon for the opening worship service, WELS President Mark Schroeder encouraged convention attendees to "Embrace the mission. Seize the opportunities. Remember God's promises. And, as you plant the seed of the gospel, watch as God makes it grow."

Convention attendees learned about the expanding outreach in Asia and Latin America. In addition, home missionaries shared updates and experiences with church planting in northwest Arkansas and establishing a campus ministry in Waco, Texas.

Ms. Tammy Heckendorf, a member of Mt. Olive, Overland Park, Kan., was attending her first LWMS convention. She noted, "It's good to be around a large body of Christian women from throughout the United States. Having recently moved from Wisconsin to Kansas, I don't have as many people in my fellowship, and to have this encouragement is wonderful."

The convention marked the end of Ms. Jacky Stoll's term as president of LWMS. As Ms. Melinda Sims assumes the presidency of the organization, she wants women of WELS to know about the service opportunities LWMS provides: "Most people know LWMS as an organization that supports and promotes missions. But another large aspect of it is giving a space for women to move into leadership positions. Within their own church, they can be a reporter and share mission information at a more regional level. We have our circuits where they can take officer positions. And then, of course, we have the international board for those women who are looking for a chance to spread their wings a little bit more beyond their local congregation or even their region."

The 63rd annual LWMS convention is scheduled to take place at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wis., June 25-28, 2026. The theme of the convention will be "Cast Out Your Nets."

Dual Parish Update

- At the time of publication, neither voters' meeting for the month has been held. More information will be given in the September newsletter.

St. Mark Council Update

-

Holy Cross Council Update

-

Who Can I Pray For?

Below are some of our shut-ins that you can pray for, call, and even visit (please call ahead before any visits).

- Carol Heydn - (906)788-4445 - W5744 14 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893
- Kristin Bates - (906)280-8276 - W6450 Cty. Rd. 358, Daggett, MI 49821
- Harold and Virginia Schlenvogt - (906)753-4326 - W5209 Cty Rd 348, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Evelyn Smith - (920)370-2361 - 1191 Pawn Dr, Green Bay WI 54313 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- Elizabeth Grille - (906)792-6060 - W4728 County Rd. 338, Wallace, MI 49893 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- Cheryl Bussler - (906)290-0881 - N222 Willow St, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Jim and Carlyn Lynch - (906)241-1488 - N10438 M-35, Cedar River, MI 49887
- Judy Hamblen - (715)923-5661 - 2006 Lake Park Dr, Room 209, Marinette, WI 54143 (The Cottages in Marinette)

Would you like to be included on this list? Please reach out to Pastor Crass.

(continued from page 1)

On the horizon, we have some plans. Inspired by the growing number of young families in the church, some of the church parents have discussed an informal play group. This would give the opportunity to our members for more fellowship with parents in a similar stage of life and allow them an easy opportunity to invite friends.

For Catechism this year, we are also trying something new. Instead of just 6th-8th graders studying for confirmation, we are going to open this class up to any children that want to attend. We'll think of it as a sort-of "after school Bible class." There will still be the three-year expectation to get confirmed, and we will stick with our usual plan of confirmation after grade 8, but this will serve as an opportunity for more of our church's youth to be involved in regular Bible study, focusing part of the year on Bible history and the other part of the year on the teachings of the Bible.

There is much in store for our two churches, and I don't want to ignore the fact that none of these things happen without strong support and teamwork of the members of our church. Through your prayers, through your offerings, and through the work of your hands, we get to encourage each other, strengthen the faith and trust of those we share the pews with, and tell the good news of Christ the Lord to those who do not know him.

There will always be more work to do, until the whole world know Jesus or until we cross the finish line of life's race into heaven. I give thanks that we get to do this work together, and that our God promises to bless it and grow his kingdom through it.

I thank my God every time I remember you. Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Member Announcements

If you have any announcements you would like shared with our church family, please reach out to Pastor Crass.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																		
27 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Fellowship at St. Mark	28	29	30	31	1	2																		
3 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion 10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	4 6pm St. Mark Council Meeting	5 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark (Revelation) 6pm Pre-Bible Class Cookout at Holy Cross 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross (Revelation)	6	7	8	9																		
10 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	11	12 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark (Revelation) 6pm Pre-Bible Class Cookout at Holy Cross 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross (Revelation)	13	14	15	16																		
17 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion 10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	18	19 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark (Revelation) 6pm Pre-Bible Class Cookout at Holy Cross 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross (Revelation)	20	21 6:30pm Holy Cross Council Meeting	22	23																		
24 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Fellowship at St. Mark	25	26	27 3:30pm Catechism Class	28	29	30																		
31 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	1	<div>Holy Cross</div> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Ushers</th><th>Counters</th></tr><tr><td>8/3</td><td>Team 2: Kuntze</td><td>Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula</td></tr><tr><td>8/10</td><td>Team 3: Kedsch</td><td>Team 3: Sean Troutt & Jeff Hacker</td></tr><tr><td>8/17</td><td>Team 4: Sivula/Tauscher</td><td>Team 4: Marie Anderson & Mary Sivula</td></tr><tr><td>8/24</td><td>Team 5: Anderson, Walcher, Lynch</td><td>Team 1: Jerry Kary & Kristin Sivula</td></tr><tr><td>8/31</td><td>Team 1: Troutt/Kary</td><td>Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula</td></tr></table>					Date	Ushers	Counters	8/3	Team 2: Kuntze	Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula	8/10	Team 3: Kedsch	Team 3: Sean Troutt & Jeff Hacker	8/17	Team 4: Sivula/Tauscher	Team 4: Marie Anderson & Mary Sivula	8/24	Team 5: Anderson, Walcher, Lynch	Team 1: Jerry Kary & Kristin Sivula	8/31	Team 1: Troutt/Kary	Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula
Date	Ushers	Counters																						
8/3	Team 2: Kuntze	Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula																						
8/10	Team 3: Kedsch	Team 3: Sean Troutt & Jeff Hacker																						
8/17	Team 4: Sivula/Tauscher	Team 4: Marie Anderson & Mary Sivula																						
8/24	Team 5: Anderson, Walcher, Lynch	Team 1: Jerry Kary & Kristin Sivula																						
8/31	Team 1: Troutt/Kary	Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula																						

St. Mark
Altar: Nancy Larsen
Hostess: Kay Keefer & Carol Rye-Lindberg

St. Mark
 Altar: Nancy Larsen
 Hostess: Kay Keefer & Carol Rye-Lindberg